

Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, January 21st, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: MEETING TOOK PLACE VIA PHONE/VIDEOCONFERENCE.

Date: January 21st, 2021
Location: Virtual-via Zoom
President: Wendy Sparks
Vice President: Becki Gann
Secretary: Holly Williamson
Treasurer: Jeremy Anderson
Board Members: Erin Miller, Kiley Hoffman
Staff: Bill Conlon

Mission Statement:

Dallas Community School is an inclusive public charter school supporting collaborative, standards- based education in a flexible, non-traditional environment.

Vision:

Dallas Community School will empower non-traditional learners with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to succeed in and contribute value to their community.

1) Call to order: 6:30 pm

2) Public Comment: None

3) Adopt Consent Agenda and Minutes (action): Kylie motioned to adopt the consent agenda and minutes. Holly seconded. All in favor.

4) Parent-Teacher Organization Update: No update. Bill will reach out to the PTO president in regards to hosting a plant sale as a fundraiser for DCS. The board discussed planning a possible camping trip for students at the end of summer. Further discussion around this will occur at a later date.

5) Treasurer's Report: Jeremy discussed the school's annual budget with the board, which has remained stable. The board discussed DCS's PEP Loan used for payroll and utilities. This loan became effective in July. It has not yet been forgiven, but Andrea is working on gathering documentation to submit. The audits are in currently in the works, but will be completed by next month's board meeting.

6) Budget Amendment Discussion: Bill proposed to amend the current budget to increase the allotment allocation by adding \$100.00 to each student's allotment fund, putting the total cost at \$21,000. The money would come from other budget line items, including Instruction,

Computer Hardware, Support Services (library media), School Administration, Fiscal Services, and Plant Services.

Wendy motioned to amend the budget to reflect the changes that Bill proposed in his presentation and to add an additional \$100.00 per student for allotment funds for this year only. Holly seconded. All in favor.

7) Director's Report:

a) Board appreciation: Bill thanked the board for their work and dedication.

b) Winter Term: Though expected, the current enrollment numbers for winter term classes are less than last year. However, they are up from this fall term. Bill briefly discussed a professional development training with Kagan Strategies that the staff took part in this past January, which discussed ways to get the students more involved, despite learning remotely. The techniques given will also convert easily into on-site instruction.

8) Facility Update: Work on the house and garage projects has begun again. The garage is now insulated and dry walling has begun. The drop ceiling has been installed. A fence will be built around the buildings when the work is finished. If time and money remain, the builders will put opening windows in rooms that don't have any in the current school building. The school's roof has begun leaking in various places when rainfall is heavy. Home Comfort will seal the roof ductwork when the weather allows.

9) School Opening Update: Bill shared updated information with the board in regards to a school re-entry plan in the ongoing pandemic. One of the bigger changes state that metrics are no longer required, but advisory. Despite this, DCS is unable to open as Marion and Polk counties metrics are too high. Bill met with administrators from Polk County, who agreed they would like the number to be under 350 cases (cases per thousand) for at least 2 weeks before opening as a district. Bill postulated DCS could open for a few classes after spring break, depending on family surveys and metrics. K-2 grades would be the first to return, while older students may not start in person classes until next school year. Bill discussed that the staff members also need training in 160 areas before DCS can open its doors again.

The board briefly discussed liability insurance and the possible liability of allowing students to return to in person classes. Due to the state providing limited liability insurance for any school that has a case related to COVID 19 that ends up in court, the risk is less than at the beginning of the pandemic, but a risk still exists.

The staff are currently planning a "Staff Skip Day" for Feb. 11th in which they will go to two different parks and students can come "catch" the teachers "skipping class." This is intended to be a fun social time for families and staff. Social distancing and other precautions will be taken at this event.

10) Committees Update:

a) Policy Committee: No new update.

b) Board Recruitment Committee: No new update.

11) Adjourn: February 18th, 2021, Thursday, 6:30 PM.

